

## **LISTING OF THE CLAIMS**

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

- 1. (Currently Amended)** An operating mechanism for a medical device, the operating mechanism comprising:

  - a switching unit operable to designate ~~specified operations in an operation of an endoscope unit~~ the medical device;
  - an air-tight unit configured to accommodate the switching unit air-tightly;
  - a moving member disposed inside the air-tight unit, and movable between a position in which the switching unit designates ~~an~~ the operation and a position in which the switching unit designates no operation;
  - a biasing unit configured to directly or indirectly bias the moving member from ~~another~~ the position in which the switching unit designates the operation to the position in which ~~no operation is designated~~ the switching unit designates no operation;
  - an operating member disposed on an outside of the air-tight unit, and comprising an elastic portion deformable in accordance with a user operation operable by an operator; and
  - a switching-function change-over unit adapted to move the moving member by magnetic force into the position in which an operation is designated against the biasing force of the biasing unit in accordance with an elastic deformation of the elastic portion caused by the user operation of the operating member.
- 2. (Previously Presented)** The operating mechanism for a medical device according to claim 1, wherein the switching unit is a photo-interrupter.
- 3. (Previously Presented)** The operating mechanism for a medical device according to claim 1, wherein the switching unit is a switch that is placed in a conductive state by being pressed.
- 4. (Previously Presented)** The operating mechanism for a medical device according to claim 1, wherein the switching-function change-over unit comprises:

a first magnet disposed on the operating member or an operating auxiliary member disposed on the outside of the air-tight unit with an air-tight unit main body interposed; and

a second magnet disposed on the moving member disposed on the inside of the air-tight unit with the air-tight unit main body interposed.

**5. (Currently Amended)** An operating mechanism for a medical device comprising:

a switch ~~that controls~~ positioned inside an endoscope unit of the medical device and operable to control specified functional operations an operation in [[an]] the endoscope unit;

an air-tight unit that can accommodate the switch air-tightly;

a moving member ~~which is~~ disposed inside the air-tight unit, ~~and which moves~~ the moving member operable to move between a position ~~in which the switch designates an designating the~~ operation and a position ~~in which the switch does not designate an designating no~~ operation;

a biasing unit operative to bias the moving member from the position in which the switch designates the operation to the position in which the switch designates no operation;

an operating member ~~which is~~ disposed ~~on the~~ outside of the air-tight unit, ~~which can be operated~~ the operating member operable by an operator, ~~and which is disposed positioned~~ such that no contact is made with the moving member, the operating member comprising an elastic portion elastically deformable in accordance with a user operation; and

a switching-function change-over portion which switches operable to control the functional operation of the switch by varying the position of the moving member in accordance with the elastic deformation of the elastic portion caused by the user operation of the operating member by exerting a magnetic force on the moving member in opposition to the biasing force of biasing unit.

**6. (Currently Amended)** The operating mechanism for a medical device according to claim 5, which further comprises a biasing member that directly or indirectly biases the moving member to the position ~~in which no operation is designated~~ designating no operation.

**7. (Canceled)**

**8. (Previously Presented)** The operating mechanism for a medical device according to claim 7, wherein the switching-function change-over portion comprises:

a first magnet which is disposed on the operating member or an operating auxiliary member disposed on the outside of the air-tight unit with an air-tight unit main body interposed; and

a second magnet which is provided on the moving member disposed on the inside of the air-tight unit with the air-tight unit main body interposed.

**9. (Original)** The operating mechanism for a medical device according to claim 5, wherein the switch is a photo-interrupter.

**10. (Original)** The operating mechanism for a medical device according to claim 5, wherein the switch is ~~a switch that~~ is placed in a conductive state by being pressed.

**11. (Currently Amended)** An operating mechanism for a medical device comprising:

switching means ~~that controls specified functional operations in~~ for controlling an operation of an endoscope unit of the medical device positioned inside the endoscope unit;

an air-tight unit that can accommodate the switch switching means air-tightly;

a moving member ~~which is disposed inside the air-tight unit, and which moves the moving member for moving~~ between a position in which the switch designates an designating the operation and a position in which the switch does not designate an designating no operation;

biasing means for biasing the moving member from the position in which the switching means designates the operation to the position in which the switching means designates no operation;

operating means ~~which is disposed~~ positioned on the outside of the air-tight unit, ~~which can be the operating means operable operated~~ by an operator, and ~~which is disposed such that no contact is made with the moving member, the operating member comprising an elastic portion elastically deformable in accordance with a user operation;~~ and

switching-function change-over means ~~which varies for varying~~ the position of the moving member to switch the ~~functional operation designated by of the switch by operating the operating~~ means ~~the switching means of the endoscope unit, the switching-function change-over means~~ varying the position of the moving member by exerting a magnetic force in opposition to the biasing force of the biasing means, in accordance with elastic deformation of the elastic portion caused by the user operation.

**12. - 13. (Canceled)**

**14. (Previously Presented)** The operating mechanism for a medical device according to claim 13, wherein the switching-function change-over means comprise[[s]]:

- a first magnet which is disposed on an operating member or an operating auxiliary member disposed on the outside of the air-tight unit with an air-tight unit main body interposed; and
- a second magnet which is disposed on the moving member disposed on the inside of the air-tight unit with the air-tight unit main body interposed.

**15. (Original)** The operating mechanism for a medical device according to claim 11, wherein the switching means is a photo-interrupter.

**16. (Original)** The operating mechanism for a medical device according to claim 11, wherein the switching means is a switch that is placed in a conductive state by being pressed.

**17. - 19. (Canceled)**

**20. (Previously Presented)** The operating mechanism of claim 1, wherein the medical device is adapted to be sterilized at high-pressure in an autoclave.